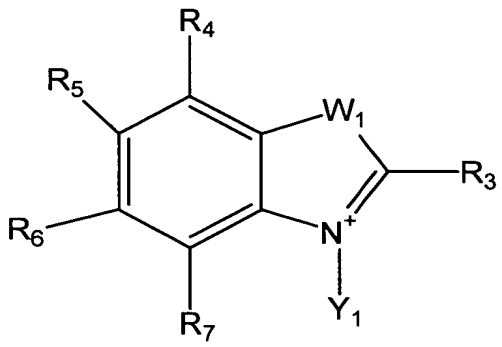
1. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation of an indole of formula



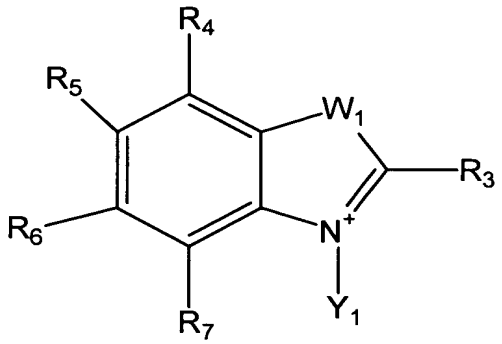
wherein R_3 to R_7, and Y_1 are independently selected from the group consisting of -H, C1-C10 alkoxyl, C1-C10 polyalkoxyalkyl, C1-C20 polyhydroxyalkyl, C5-C20 polyhydroxyaryl, saccharides, amino, C1-C10 aminoalkyl, cyano, nitro, halogen, hydrophilic peptides, arylpolysulfonates, C1-C10 alkyl, C1-C10 aryl, $-SO_3T$, $-CO_2T$, -OH, $-(CH_2)_aSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aOPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aOPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$,

$-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, and $-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-CH_2(CH_2-O-CH_2)_c-CH_2-OH$, $-(CH_2)_d-CO_2T$, $-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_e-CH_2-CO_2T$, $-(CH_2)_f-NH_2$, $-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_g-CH_2-NH_2$, $-(CH_2)_h-N(R_a)-(CH_2)_i-CO_2T$, and $-(CH_2)_j-N(R_b)-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_k-CH_2-CO_2T$; W_1 is selected from the group consisting of $-CR_cR_d$, -O-, and $-NR_c$; a, b, d, f, h, i, and j independently vary from 1-10; c, e, g, and k independently vary from 1-100; R_a, R_b, R_c, and R_d are defined in the same manner as Y_1; T is either H or a negative charge.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein R_3 to R_7,and Y_1 are independently selected from the group consisting of -H, C1-C5 alkoxyl, C1-C5 polyalkoxyalkyl, C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl, C5-C20 polyhydroxyaryl, mono- and disaccharides, nitro, hydrophilic peptides, arylpolysulfonates, C1-C5 alkyl, C1-C10 aryl, $-SO_3T$, $-CO_2T$, -OH, $-(CH_2)_aSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-CH_2(CH_2-O-CH_2)_c-CH_2-OH$, $-(CH_2)_d-CO_2T$, $-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_e-CH_2-CO_2T$, $-(CH_2)_f-NH_2$, $-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_g-CH_2-NH_2$, $-(CH_2)_h-N(R_a)-(CH_2)_i-CO_2T$, and $-(CH_2)_j-N(R_b)-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_k-CH_2-CO_2T$; W_1 is selected from the group consisting of $-CR_cR_d$, -O-, and $-NR_c$; a, b, d, f, h, I, and j independently vary from 1-5; c, e, g, and k independently vary from 1-20; R_a, R_b, R_c, and R_d are defined in the same manner as Y_1; T is a negative charge.

3. The composition of claim 2 wherein each R_3, R_4, R_6 and R_7 is H, R_5 is SO_3T, Y_1 is $-(CH_2)_3SO_3T$; W_1 is $-C(CH_3)_2$; T is a negative charge.

4. A method for performing a diagnostic procedure which comprises administering to an individual an effective amount of the indole of formula



wherein R_3 to R_7, and Y_1 are independently selected from the group consisting of –H, C1-C10 alkoxyl, C1-C10 polyalkoxyalkyl, C1-C20 polyhydroxyalkyl, C5-C20 polyhydroxyaryl, saccharides, amino, C1-C10 aminoalkyl, cyano, nitro, halogen, hydrophilic peptides, arylpolysulfonates, C6-C10 alkyl, C1-C10 aryl, $-SO_3T$, $-CO_2T$, -OH, $-(CH_2)_aSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aOPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aOPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$,

$-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, and $-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-CH_2(CH_2\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2)_c\text{-}CH_2\text{-}OH$, $-(CH_2)_d\text{-}CO_2T$, $-CH_2\text{-}(CH_2\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2)_e\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CO_2T$, $-(CH_2)_f\text{-}NH_2$, $-CH_2\text{-}(CH_2\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2)_g\text{-}CH_2\text{-}NH_2$, $-(CH_2)_h\text{-}N(R_a)\text{-}(CH_2)_i\text{-}CO_2T$, and $-(CH_2)_j\text{-}N(R_b)\text{-}CH_2\text{-}(CH_2\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2)_k\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CO_2T$; W_1 is selected from the group consisting of $-CR_cR_d$, -O-, and $-NR_c$; a, b, d, f, h, i, and j independently vary from 1-10; c, e, g, and k independently vary from 1-100; R_a, R_b, R_c, and R_d are defined in the same manner as Y_1; T is either H or a negative charge.

5. The method for performing the diagnostic or therapeutic procedure of claim 4 which comprises administering to an individual an effective amount of the composition of indoles wherein R_3 to R_7, and Y_1 are independently selected from the group consisting of C1-C5 alkoxyl, C1-C5 polyalkoxyalkyl, C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl, C5-C20 polyhydroxyaryl, mono- and disaccharides, nitro, hydrophilic peptides, arylpolysulfonates, C1-C10 aryl, $-SO_3T$, $-CO_2T$, -OH, $-(CH_2)_aSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-CH_2(CH_2\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2)_c\text{-}CH_2\text{-}OH$, $-(CH_2)_d\text{-}CO_2T$, $-CH_2\text{-}(CH_2\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2)_e\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CO_2T$, $-(CH_2)_f\text{-}NH_2$, $-CH_2\text{-}(CH_2\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2)_g\text{-}CH_2\text{-}NH_2$, $-(CH_2)_h\text{-}N(R_a)\text{-}(CH_2)_i\text{-}CO_2T$, and $-(CH_2)_j\text{-}N(R_b)\text{-}CH_2\text{-}(CH_2\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2)_k\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CO_2T$; W_1 is selected from the group consisting of $-CR_cR_d$, -O-, and $-NR_c$; a, b, d, f, h, l, and j independently vary from 1-5; c, e, g, and k independently vary from 1-20; R_a, R_b, R_c, and R_d are defined in the same manner as Y_1; T is a negative charge.

6. The method for performing the diagnostic or therapeutic procedure of claim 5 which comprises administering to an individual an effective amount of the composition of indoles wherein each R_3, R_4, R_6 and R_7 is H, R_5 is SO_3T, Y_1 is $-(CH_2)_3SO_3T$; W_1 is $-C(CH_3)_2$; T is a negative charge.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein said procedure utilizes light of wavelength in the region of 350-1300 nm.

8. The method of claim 4 wherein said diagnostic procedure comprises monitoring a blood clearance profile by fluorescence wherein light of wavelength in the region of 350 to 1300 nm is utilized.

9. The method of claim 4 wherein said diagnostic procedure comprises monitoring a blood clearance profile by absorption wherein light of wavelength in the region of 350 to 1300 nm is utilized.

10. The method of claim 4 wherein said procedure is for physiological function monitoring.

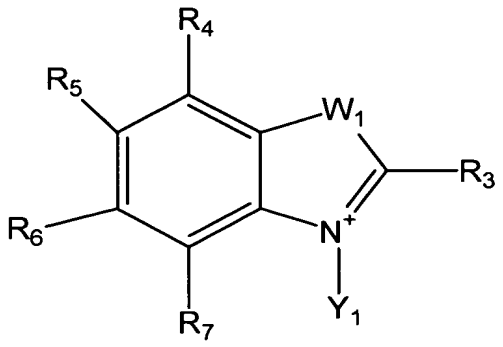
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the diagnostic procedure is for renal function monitoring.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the diagnostic procedure is for cardiac function monitoring.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the diagnostic procedure is for kidney function monitoring.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the diagnostic procedure is for determining organ perfusion in vivo.

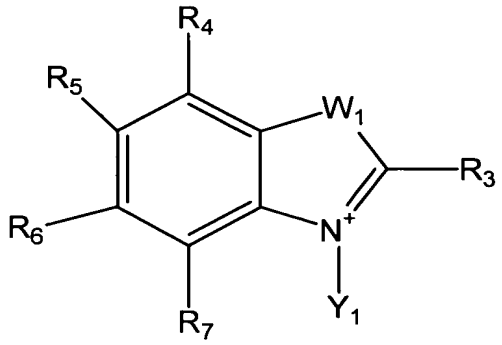
15. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation of an indole of formula



wherein R_3 to R_7, and Y_1 are independently selected from the group consisting of -H, C1-C10 alkoxyl, C1-C10 polyalkoxyalkyl, C1-C20 polyhydroxyalkyl, C5-C20 polyhydroxyaryl, saccharides, amino, C1-C10 aminoalkyl, cyano, nitro, halogen, hydrophilic peptides, arylpolysulfonates, C1-C10 alkyl, C1-C10 aryl, $-SO_3T$, $-CO_2T$, -OH, $-(CH_2)_aSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aOPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aOPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$,

$-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, and $-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-CH_2(CH_2-O-CH_2)_c-CH_2-OH$, $-(CH_2)_d-CO_2T$, $-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_e-CH_2-CO_2T$, $-(CH_2)_f-NH_2$, $-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_g-CH_2-NH_2$, $-(CH_2)_h-N(R_a)-(CH_2)_i-CO_2T$, and $-(CH_2)_j-N(R_b)-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_k-CH_2-CO_2T$; W_1 is selected from the group consisting of $-CR_cR_d$, -O-, $-NR_c$, and –S-; a, b, d, f, h, i, and j independently vary from 1-10; c, e, g, and k independently vary from 1-100; R_a, R_b, R_c, and R_d are defined in the same manner as Y_1; T is either H or a negative charge; with the proviso that when W_1 is -S-, R_3-R_7 are not –H or C1-C10 alkyl; and Y_1 is not –H.

16. A method for performing a diagnostic procedure which comprises administering to an individual an effective amount of the indole of formula



wherein R_3 to R_7, and Y_1 are independently selected from the group consisting of –H, C1-C10 alkoxyl, C1-C10 polyalkoxyalkyl, C1-C20 polyhydroxyalkyl, C5-C20 polyhydroxyaryl, saccharides, amino, C1-C10 aminoalkyl, cyano, nitro, halogen, hydrophilic peptides, arylpolysulfonates, C6-C10 alkyl, C1-C10 aryl, $-SO_3T$, $-CO_2T$, $-OH$, $-(CH_2)_aSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bSO_3T$, $-(CH_2)_aPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aOPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aOPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aCO_2(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aOCO(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCO(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$,

$-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, $-(CH_2)_aNHCSNH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3HT$, and $-(CH_2)_aOCONH(CH_2)_bPO_3T_2$, $-CH_2(CH_2-O-CH_2)_c-CH_2-OH$, $-(CH_2)_d-CO_2T$, $-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_e-CH_2-CO_2T$, $-(CH_2)_f-NH_2$, $-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_g-CH_2-NH_2$, $-(CH_2)_h-N(R_a)-(CH_2)_i-CO_2T$, and $-(CH_2)_j-N(R_b)-CH_2-(CH_2-O-CH_2)_k-CH_2-CO_2T$; W_1 is selected from the group consisting of $-CR_cR_d$, -O-, $-NR_c$, and –S-; a, b, d, f, h, i, and j independently vary from 1-10; c, e, g, and k independently vary from 1-100; R_a, R_b, R_c, and R_d are defined in the same manner as Y_1; T is either H or a negative charge; with the proviso that when W_1 is -S-, R_3-R_7 are not –H or C1-C10 alkyl; and Y_1 is not –H.